

the conference expand upon the discussions of that one-week in October.

#### *Grassroots*

The Emerging Preservation Leaders are a testament to the concept of “grassroots activism,” showing on the ground level how preservation simply makes sense. For instance, Nancy Haney likens the preservation movement to environmentalism: “It’s really just another recycling issue, you know? Why should these buildings end up in landfills?”

When Eugenia Woo attended the Boston conference in 1994, she was a graduate student at the University of Washington. Now she works for the city of Seattle’s department of neighborhoods, bridging the gap between the practical and the historical, specifically in two ethnic, historic neighborhoods. “Having been to several different conferences, local, statewide and national, it’s clear that preservation is still a very white-dominated field,” Woo said. “To have this (scholarship) program, to reach out to certain segments of the population, is really good. People who are working in community or economic development, a lot of times they think preservation would hinder those things, but it doesn’t. People think preservation is just to keep everything the same but that’s not necessarily true.”

If anything, thanks to the program, perceptions have changed in and about the National

Trust and its work. “When I first heard about the National Trust, I just thought it was some rich white folks who liked to save buildings,” said Valerie Cunningham, who kept an open mind and attended the Boston conference. “It was there I discovered a vocabulary for what I was doing. I know what I am. I’m a historic preservationist.” “At the Miami conference,” said Peter Brink of the National Trust. “We white attendees realized we had at least as much to gain from having the scholarship attendees with us as they did.”

This year more than 5,000 applications have been sent out for the scholarship program. The National Preservation Conference will be in Washington, DC, from October 19 to 24. The theme is “Saving America’s Treasures.”

Established in 1949, the Trust provides leadership, education, and advocacy to save America’s diverse historic places and revitalize communities. It has six regional offices, 20 museum properties, and 275,000 members across the country.

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Photos courtesy National Trust for Historic Preservation.

### *Jazz Club at Rossonian Hotel in Denver, Colorado*

**L**ocated in the Five Points neighborhood in Denver, Colorado, the Rossonian Hotel was constructed in 1912 as the Baxter Hotel. Renamed in 1929 in honor of Mr. A. W. L. Ross, who managed the building with a group of African American men, the Rossonian enjoyed the reputation as one of the most important jazz clubs between St. Louis and Los Angeles from the late 1930s to the early 1960s. It hosted jazz greats such as Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, Nat King Cole, and Dinah Washington at a time when they performed at white-owned Denver hotels, but were denied lodging at the same hotels. When the legal and de facto racial segregation was reduced following World War II, the need for alternative lodging provided by the Rossonian lessened.



*Today, the Rossonian building is leased to a variety of tenants. Photo by Nancy Lyons, Preservation Partnership, Denver.*